Sub-Assistant Surgeons.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Sir, I move that "*this Council recommenas to the Government that the present staff of the Ernakulam General Hospital be strengthend by two more Sub-Assistant Surgeons.*"

Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.—I beg to second it, Sir.

Deputy President.—The resolution before the House is that "*this Council recommends to the Government that the present staff of the Ernakulam General Hospital be strengthened by two more Sub-Assistant Surgeons*".

Resolution put and agreed to.

District Registrars.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Resolution No. 92. "*This Council recommends to the Government that there shall be (at the least) only two grades of District Registrars or, if as proposed, let the number be equally distributed among the four grades*".

Mr. C. V. Kuriyan.—I second it.

Mr T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—A few words in explanation of this. The Registration Department is quasi-judicial in its nature. As such the revenue derived from it has to be spent mainly on its maintenance and up-keep. This is an accepted principle in all civilised countries. Cent per cent margin is allowed for expenditure against gross receipts. Should, however, the Department show a large surplus every year, it has to be presumed that the system under which it is worked is faulty. Either the tax is heavy on the public or the staff is underманned or low-paid. To remove, therefore, the defects, either of the following changes may be brought about, *viz.*, (1) lowering the rate of fees leviable on documents or (2) increasing the pay and the strength of the establishment. Unlike other Departments, such as Land Revenue and Excise, the Registration Department cannot be counted as a channel of income. The percentage of expenditure to gross receipts for the year 1103 comes to 46 and odd only, leaving a surplus of over Rs. 80,000, while, in the Madras Presidency, the expenditure goes up to 80 per cent for the past six years.

That the remuneration allowed to District Registrars and their establishments is not commensurate with their onerous and responsible duties goes without saying.

The Special Finance Committee have classified the District Registrars into four grades instead of the existing six grades as shown below:—

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